



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Members:

Lynne Kelley – Chair
Margo Campbell
Virginia DeSorgher
Cynthia Dodge
Douglas Mayo

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Remote via WebEx

Minutes of Thursday, July 9, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair
Margo Campbell
Virginia DeSorgher
Douglas Mayo

Members absent:

Cynthia Dodge, Vice Chair

Also present:

Lindsay Rowe, Acting ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield
Robin Fordham, Grant Program Assistant for the Community & Economic
Development Department

Bob Williford, resident

Mark Snow, Building Inspector for the City of Greenfield

Valerie Bird, Heath Director for the City of Greenfield

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

The meeting was recorded via the WebEx remote meeting platform.

Approval of Minutes:

June 11, 2020 minutes – Ms. DeSorgher moved to accept the minutes as amended.
Ms. Campbell seconded. Minutes approved 4-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Campbell reported that Handicapped Parking Fund balance remains at
\$2,821.05, and the General Fund balance remains at \$300.00.

Mark Snow provided a brief explanation of the building inspector's role, noting the authority/jurisdiction over the building code, including 521CMR AAB regulations MA, but no federal jurisdiction.

Valerie Bird explained that the Health Dept. doesn't deal directly with the disability aspect of health, instead looks to the building inspector and to federal government.

Mr. Snow and Ms. Bird then had back and forth Q & A with CDA:

LK - Curious about issues in terms of getting COVID-19 information out in relation to disabilities, i.e., food handling, what kind of protocols are in place for food preparers.

VB - Under the state guidelines from Mass.gov, that is what's being followed. Dept. has paid visits and informed most food vendors. Requiring masks behind counter, have received some complaints of employees not wearing masks. Some people have stated medical reason, and HD cannot ask for that information. Trying to keep those individuals behind scenes to reduce risk to general population.

GD - Concerned that constituents are missing services available, e.g., Senior Center can provide "protein" boxes, but some people are not aware of this program. Large disability population, would be helpful to have more coordination so that disability population has better access to information/resources.

VB – Try to reach out on a daily basis as I come in contact with disabled individuals, connect with LifePath, Stavros, etc.

LK - How do you get info out to the disabled populations? CDA looking for broader reach than case-by-case, working with all City departments.

VB - I forward info to Danni LeTourneau, Communication Director, and she reviews and distributes appropriately.

VB - How many people on CDA, and what is role?



LK - Five confirmed commissioners, with Lindsay Rowe as City ADA Coordinator. I'm Chair, I have experience as nurse practitioner, background in case management, occupational health, clinical care.

GD - Commission on Disability Access is mostly tasked with getting access issues resolved. Access to buildings, parking lots, access to services, housing, etc.; problem solvers and handle complaints that people have. Try to go further to make people aware of services available. Main role is ADA law is being followed. Housing is big issue.

MC – CDA is trying to get into planning portion of City projects to avoid access problems before they are completed.

LK – Don't have enforcement authority, but we are people who have knowledge of ADA regs and are available to work with town to get to compliance, avoid fines, and for individuals businesses as well. Commissioners have backgrounds in health, civil engineering.

MS - How does CDA reach out to public?

LK - Currently, provide info via website, workshops, newspaper, senior center; currently looking at communications as an issue.

LK - Retrofitting buildings can be challenging in Greenfield. We would like to be part of planning & development, rather than after the fact. Boston has accessibility checklist (from Boston planning agency), given at the development stage of project. Wondered if familiar and think this would be helpful for Greenfield.

MS - Not familiar with checklist, happy to look at to see where it might fit in.

LK – For example, doors are big issue for people with wheelchairs. If no push button available, door pressure should at least be addressed. This is something that could be addressed at final stages of planning/development.

MS - Typically in a construction project, it falls on design professional who indicates it meets all the code requirements. It's more than just the building



official. Sometimes changes in design are made after compliance check is completed.

GD - Also noting, all winter long sidewalks and driveways are an issue for the disabled. Affordable accessible housing needed as well (state has new program of 50k for accessible ADU projects).

Open Issues:

Update on Garden Cinema

Ms. Rowe reported that the lift is installed, finishing work happening shortly, then needs inspecting by state elevator inspector. Will send report over to AAB once done. She has passed on the request to 'test' by CDA, would have to happen after full inspection process is complete. Almost done.

Status of invitation to department heads.

No discussion

Remote access status

Ms. Rowe reported there have been no changes to executive orders re: meeting online. Can currently meet in person, or invite members of the public to join remotely. CDA will continue with remote access for the time being.

FRTA / Elm Terrace bus stop

Ms. DeSorgher exchanged email with Marlo Warner, met on this issue and other bus stops previously, but have not revisited due to COVID. Have not been in touch with Mayor on this issue yet.

Building accessibility/CDA inclusion in planning stage/Library plans

Ms. Campbell sat in on Library planning meeting, getting close to putting out set of plans for estimating, not final. Will request copy. Meetings are 3D models, hard to tell if meeting accessibility requirements. Deck out back has no accessible exit. Smaller patio upstairs currently has no accessible (or any) emergency exit.

Covid-19 information

Ms. Kelley will send article on access to free gloves/masks for home care workers not be working through agency and would need to procure on their own.



Status of outdoor dining

Ms. DeSorgher is working with restaurants who stated interest in outdoor dining. Have been a couple of places, appeared accessible, haven't been to all.

Ms. Kelley visited Hope & Olive, didn't look like there was a way to easily access with wheelchair, will take another look.

New Business

Mr. Mayo reported on conversation with Marlo Warner, City wants to do a complete sidewalk overhaul for entirety of Arch St., driveways with severe cracks. DPW aware of issue, on their to-do list, understand that it's a hazard to the disabled. Mr. Mayo will continue to follow issue with them.

Announcements

Have not had update from Cynthia Dodge since last meeting.

L'aura Jordan to be appointed to CDA in a week, will join meetings in August, be able to vote in Sept.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on August 13, 2020, remote via WebEx

Adjournment

Ms. Kelley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and MS. DeSorgher seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

